

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-12; and

Please ADD claims 13-15 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for enhancing database performance in a Domain Name System (DNS), the method comprising the steps of:~~

–receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

–conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the conditionally converting comprises converting the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

–supplying the data to the database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a step of examining whether an Internet domain name fulfills a~~ the predetermined condition in the first format.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method according to claim 2, wherein the examining ~~step~~-includes examining whether said Internet domain name includes at least a predetermined number of labels beyond a given origin, said labels having a predetermined maximum length.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method according to claim 3, wherein a condition upon which the converting is conditional is whether the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, such that the converting ~~step~~-is performed for said Internet domain name when the examining ~~step~~ indicates that the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, said labels having the predetermined maximum length, and the converting ~~step~~-is not performed when the examining ~~step~~-indicates that the Internet domain name does not include at least the predetermined number of labels.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined number of labels is three.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A-~~The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- receiving data including another Internet domain name in the second format; and
- converting the another Internet domain name received in the second format back to the first format.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A system for enhancing database performance in a Domain Name System, the system comprising:~~

- first means for receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

- second means for conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the second means is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

- third means for supplying the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim 9, further comprising:
fourth means for examining whether an Internet domain name fulfills ~~a~~ the
predetermined condition, the second means being configured to convert the Internet
domain name into the second format when the Internet domain name fulfills the
predetermined condition.

11. (Currently Amended) A name server ~~for a Domain Name System, the name~~
~~server~~ comprising:

–a first interface ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive data to be supplied to
database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a
plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name
being in a first format;

–a modification module, operably connected to the first interface, ~~for converting~~
configured to conditionally convert at least one of said at least one Internet domain name
into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at
least one Internet domain name form a single label, wherein the modification module is
configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a
predetermined condition; and

—a second interface, operably connected to the modification module, ~~for supplying~~
configured to supply the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least
one Internet domain name in the second format.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer
readable medium, the product comprising computer readable code ~~being configured to~~
cause a computer to substantially perform ~~the steps of claim 1 when executed by said~~
~~computer.~~

receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one
Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said
at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into
a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least
one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the conditionally
converting comprising converting the Internet domain name when the Internet domain
name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

supplying the data to the database operations, the supplied data including at least
one Internet domain name in the second format.

13. (New) A system, comprising:

a receiver unit configured to receive data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

a conversion unit configured to convert at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the conversion unit is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

a supply unit configured to supply the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

14. (New) A system according to claim 13, further comprising:

an examination unit configured to examine whether an Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition, the conversion unit being configured to convert the Internet domain name into the second format when the Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition.

15. (New) A name server, comprising:

first interface means for receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

modification means, operably connected to the first interface means, for conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name form a single label, wherein the modification means is configured to conditionally convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

second interface means, operably connected to the modification means, for supplying the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.